

countries; and (2) granting the Secretary of Transportation new authority to develop an early warning system that requires automobile manufacturers and their suppliers to submit information and analysis concerning possible safety defects in vehicles and equipment.

With this new authority, however, comes the important responsibility to notify the public, as quickly as possible, of any relevant investigative efforts and other safety-related information submitted to the Secretary by the manufacturers or their suppliers. Thus, today I am also directing the Secretary of Transportation to implement the information disclosure requirements of the Act in a manner that assures maximum public availability of information.

Finally, among many other important measures, the Act also includes proposals put forth by my Administration to provide for longer recall periods, to increase civil penalties for violations of the motor vehicle safety laws, and to authorize more funds for investigations into defective cars and their parts. I strongly support all of these provisions.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5164, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-414.

Statement on Signing an Extension of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to sign into law H.R. 5234, which extends the applicability of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000 to certain former spouses of deceased Hmong veterans. This bill will make these widows eligible for the eased naturalization requirements provided by the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000, which I signed into law in May of this year. Many of these widows and their families sacrificed a great deal as their spouses fought in support of the U.S. military during the conflict in Southeast Asia. Many have had to struggle to make a new life in this country,

and to raise their families, and despite language and cultural barriers, they have made significant contributions to our Nation. This legislation will help ensure that they become full-fledged citizens in our society.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,
November 1, 2000.

NOTE: H.R. 5234, approved November 1, was assigned Public Law No. 106-415.

Statement on Signing the Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000

November 1, 2000

Today I have signed into law S. 1402, the "Veterans Benefits and Health Care Improvement Act of 2000." S. 1402 expresses the Nation's continued gratitude to our veterans by reauthorizing and making improvements to a wide range of veterans' benefits and programs.

I am pleased that the Congress has included in S. 1402 significant benefit increases and other

enhancements to the All-Volunteer Force Educational Assistance Program, which is commonly known as the Montgomery GI Bill (MGIB). This program helps the men and women who have bravely served their country in the Armed Forces to adjust to civilian life. In addition, it is a major tool that the Armed Forces use to recruit highly qualified servicemembers. This